

## **Flanders - Belgium**

**Your Fastest Link to the European Market**



**Flanders Investment & Trade**

Government of Flanders - Belgium

# How to Approach Doing Business in Europe

- Assess Your Business Needs!

- Location
- Transport Infrastructure
- Human Capital
- Tax Benefits & Fiscal Incentives
- Sustainable Growth for Major Industries
- State-of-the-art Research Centers
- Density of Knowledge Clusters
- What do other companies say?
- Quality of life
- Professional Support in Setting Up Operations



# Belgium: Key Statistics

- Brussels: Capital of Belgium & Flanders
  - Headquarters of the EU
  - Home to international government agencies & NGOs
  - Corporate location of multi-national companies
- Population: 10.6 MM
  - Flanders 60%
  - Brussels 10%
  - Wallonia 30%
- Language: Dutch (60%); French (40%); German (<1%)
- Education: 47% of 20 – 24 age group are in higher education = one of the most productive workforces in the world



# Belgium: Key Statistics

- Beer: 800+ beer choices & 450+ brands;  
\*Belgians drink 150 liters per person annually
- Chocolate: produce 220,000 tons (48 lbs. per person)
- Brussels sprouts: really come from Belgium
- Belgian Waffles & Bakeries are world famous
- Belgian motorways are visible from the moon!

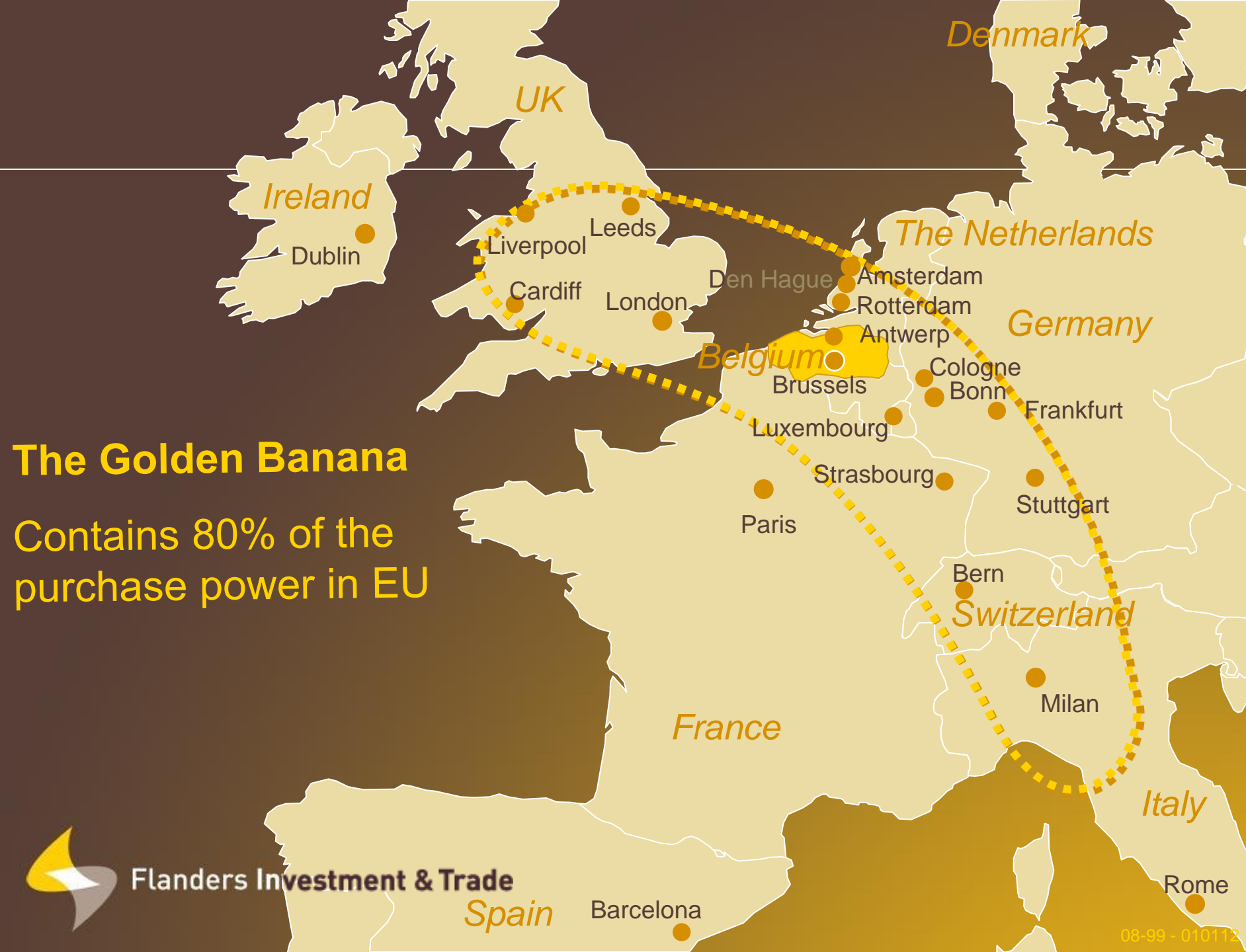


# Flanders – Belgium: Your Gateway to Europe

## A Prime Business Region

- Unique central location – crossroads of Europe
- Market access: excellent infrastructure & connectivity
- Ease of setting up a company
- Multilingual, highly educated, productive & loyal labor force
- Flexible customs regulations
- Business friendly: generous tax incentives
- High quality of life





Flanders Investment & Trade

Spain

Barcelona

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# Overview: Life Sciences and Biotech Industry

## Facts & Figures

- Biotech ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> for R&D in Flanders
- 146 life sciences / biotech companies; 13,000 employees
  - 118 conduct R&D
  - 69 Medical Biotech
  - 15 Agricultural
  - 24 Industrial
- Annual turnover = \$2.5B (€1.9B)



# Overview: Life Sciences and Biotech Industry

## Sector Dynamics: Location

- Cluster of R&D centers and support services
- Eco-system of specialized life sciences logistics
- Short delivery & travel times
- Operations base of major pharma companies
- Flanders is the ideal location for life sciences companies active in the EU





# Overview: Life Sciences and Biotech Industry

## Sector Dynamics

- Best of Class Research Centers
  - Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB)
  - IMEC
- 5 top-class universities (Ghent, Leuven, Brussels, Antwerp, Hasselt)
- 12 research parks
- 14 incubators



# Overview: Life Sciences and Biotech Industry

## Clinical Excellence

- Belgium is the world leader in clinical trials per capita
- Fast approval times – less than 2 weeks for Phase 1
- Medical research supported by 167 hospitals (7 university hospitals)



# World Class Research Centers

## Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB)

- **Autonomous entrepreneurial research institute**
- **1200 scientists from 60+ countries**
- **Focuses on translating scientific results into pharmaceutical, agricultural and industrial applications**
- **Works in partnership with 4 universities**
- **Partners with companies who develop and commercialize consumer- ready applications**



# World Class Research Centers

## IMEC

- Europe's leading research center on nanoelectronics and nanotechnology
- Research campus has 265K sq. ft. of office space, laboratories, training facilities, and training rooms
- Staff of 2000+ ; 600 industrial residents and guest researchers
- Global partnerships in healthcare, energy, ICT
- HQ in Leuven; R&D teams in Netherlands, China, Taiwan, India; offices in Japan and US



# Electronics for Healthcare and Life Sciences

## IMEC's MedTech Solutions

- **Wearable health and wellness monitoring**
  - sensor systems, integration & packaging technologies, low-power technologies, wireless communication technologies
- **Electronics-cell interfaces**
  - High resolution/ actuator arrays, miniaturized implants, active brain implants



# Flanders Life Sciences: What Others Say



*“An approval for Phase 1 trials can be reached in Flanders in a mere two weeks. This is a major advantage compared to other countries.”*

***Robert Lins***

***Business Manager Benelux***

***SGS Life Sciences Services***



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# **Flanders Investment & Trade**

**Thank You!**

**Stephen Esbin**

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